

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: AP STORY CASE PETERS OUT

REF: BRASILIA 1489

1. AP BUREAU CHIEF DENNIS REDMONT TOLD US FEB. 28 THAT DURING TWO MEETINGS HE HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS OFFICER GUY BRANDAO SINCE HIS ARRIVAL YESTERDAY, LATTER HAD SHIFTED FROM CLAIMING VIDAL (AP) STORY ABOUT GLOOMY GEISEL MEETING WITH ARENA POLITICANS WAS FABRICATION TO ASSERTING THAT IT WAS EXAGGERATED, THEN SAID GEISEL HAD MERELY INTENDED TO THROW A SCARE INTO HIS LISTENERS. FINALLY, SAID REDMONT, BRANDAO'S COMPLAINTS NARROWED TO THREE: THAT GEISEL HAD NOT RPT NOT POUNDED THE TABLE (AS STORY HAD CLAIMED), HAD NOT THREATENED TO FIRE ANYONE, AND USE OF DIRECT QUOTEAS OF GEISEL FROM INTERMEDITE SOURCE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DISTORTION. IN BRANDAO'S VIEW THE STORY PORTRAYED THE PRESIDENT AS LOSING HIS CONTROL.

2. REDMONT SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT BRANDAO WAS CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO ADMINISTER TONGUE-LASHING, AND THAT IN COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS IT SEEMED TO HIM APPROPRIATE TO MAKE SOME CONCILIATORY GESTURE. HE THEREFORE CONCEDED THAT USE OF DIRECT QUOTES WAS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MISTAKE AND AGREED WITH BRANDAO THAT IN AP COVERAGE

OF PRESIDENT GEISEL'S SPEECH UPON THE OPENING OF CONGRESS
TO BE FILED MARCH 1, EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO
INCLUDE, IF IT FITS IN, SOME MODIFICATION OF TONS OF
ORIGINAL STORY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GEISEL HAD SPOKEN
FIRMLY BUT HAD NOT RPT NOT RANTED.

3. REDMONT ALSO REPORTED THAT BRANDAO HAD SAID THERE
WAS NO QUESTION OF EXPELLING VIDAL, BUT THAT THE RENEWAL
OF HIS ACCREDITATION REMAINED UNDER REVIEW. IN ADDITION,
BRANDAO MADE CLEAR THAT EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO TRACK
DOWN THE XOURCE OF THE STORY, WHO WE UNDERSTAND WAS ONE
OF THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS PRESENT.
CRIMMINS

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